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STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



CONSERVATION

HEIDECKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Heidecke Lake, formerly Collins Lake, is a Commonwealth Edison cooling lake which has been leased to the Department of Conservation for fishing and hunting.

BOATS

Only boats for fishing or duck hunting are allowed on the lake. No water skiing, swimming, sailboating or wading allowed.

All boats must have a gasoline powered motor as a main propulsion unit.

For duck hunting, all boats must be at least 16' in length and have at least a 60" beam with the duck blind built on the boat.

CONCESSIONAIRE

A concessionaire has boats and motors for rent and bait for sale. The location is near the boat launching area.

FISHING

Heidecke Lake has a good fish population, resulting primarily from a comprehensive stocking program initiated shortly after the lake was leased in 1978. Pole and line fishing only is permitted with anglers limited to using two poles per fisherman.

To avoid the possibility of overharvest and thus assure a good fishery in the future, it was necessary to impose a minimum length and daily catch limits.

Fish size and catch limits are established by our Fisheries Division and are set to protect and preserve the fisheries resource. Strict adherence to the size and catch limits will assure quality fishing opportunities for present and future generations. The limits are posted at the site and are strictly enforced.

The lake has produced some trophy size bass.

Anglers who catch legal size fish but do not desire to keep them are encouraged to return the fish to the lake.

All sub-legal sized fish caught must be released immediately after catching to have the maximum chance of survival. Fish are measured from the tip of the mouth when closed to the tip of the tail when compressed and while lying flat on top of a ruler.

The boating access is open from 6:00 AM to sunset. Bank fishing access is open from 6:30 AM to sunset.

Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area

Approximately 1,400 Acres of Prime Northeastern Illinois Fishing Opportunities

Located southeast of Morris, on Pine Bluff / Lorenzo Road, mid-way between Route 47 & Interstate 55.

Special Regulations

Working gasoline engine required.
No swimming, wading, skiing or sailing.
Boat speed limit 40 mph.
No wake zones enforced.
Fish size & catch limits preserve and enhance the fisheries resource; observe these posted limits for the sake of the fishery and your finances!

Coolwater Species

Walleye
Muskie
Tiger Muskie
Yellow Bass
White Bass
Striped Bass
Hybrid Striped Bass

Warmwater Species

Largemouth Bass
Smallmouth Bass
Crappie
Bluegill
Bullhead
Channel Catfish
Freshwater Drum

Tips For Rookies

No shade, bring liquids & sun protection.
Banks are rocky, bring cushions.
Rain gear is a boater's best friend in 10+mph winds.
Structure = depth + current + temperature.

Commercial & Forage Species

Carp
Goldfish
Minnows
Suckers
Threadfin Shad
Gizzard Shad

NO FISHING

NO FISHING

Collins Station



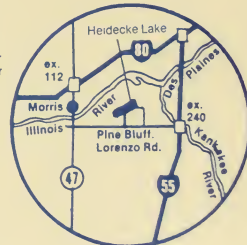
car/
trailer
parking

boat ramps, rentals
& concession

visitor
center

Goose
Lake
Prairie
State
Natural
Area

To I.L. Rt. 47 ← Pine Bluff / Lorenzo Road → To I-55



Commonwealth Edison
Illinois Department of Conservation

Current Fishing Information at
the Visitor Center 815/942-6352



The fishing season opens on or about April 1st each Spring and closes two weeks before duck hunting season.

FEES

There is no charge for launching or fishing, however, a valid Illinois fishing license is required for those between the ages of 16-65 unless exempted by law.

CAMPING

There is no camping or overnight accommodations in the park. There are 2 private and 1 state campgrounds near by. Check at the Visitor's Center for more information.

DUCK HUNTING

Water and land blind sites are allocated each morning by a lottery drawing 90 minutes before sunrise. The lake is closed to hunting on Mondays and Tuesdays. Shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon.

DEER HUNTING

Bow and arrow and shotgun hunting are available. Hunting fact sheets are available for each program.





GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA

THE NATURAL SCENE

Goose Lake Prairie, one of the largest prairies in the United States, is the largest remnants of prairie left in Illinois, the "Prairie State". As such, it is of historical, as well as natural importance. Illinois was once almost three-fourth covered by prairie; now these grasslands have been converted to croplands. This state today is very different from the frontier out of which pioneers struggled to make a living. Goose Lake Prairie is a reminder of the environment with which Illinois Indians and settlers had to contend; a place of grasses, wildflowers, fires and seemingly ceaseless prairie winds.

The original purchase of 240 acres of land was made by the state in 1969. Later additions have brought the total acreage to 2,468 acres. Approximately 1,537 acres are dedicated as Illinois Nature Preserve.

Goose Lake Prairie is a haven for wildlife. Wild ducks and geese concentrate on the marshland in spring and fall. Rare species such as Henslow's sparrow are common here. The plains pocket gopher inhabits the area as well as such larger mammals as deer and coyote.

FACILITIES

Visitor Center: A large modern center with information counter, display area, auditorium and washrooms. Multi-media presentations and programs are available. Call about schedule or check at information counter.

Trails: The Tallgrass Nature trail winds one and one-half miles through the prairie and its potholes and marshes. Trail guides with numbered paragraphs which correspond to the numbered posts along the trail are available for use.

In Winter, there are cross-country ski trails for beginners and advanced skiers. The trails travel through open prairie. Maps and warmth are available at the Visitor Center.



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Cragg's Cabin: This is a replica of the log cabin built by John Cragg in 1834-35. The cabin, nicknamed the "Palace" because of its two story design, was one of the first in Grundy County. It was a station on the underground railroad. The Youth Conservation Corps built the cabin.

Programs: Year round programs are designed to provide activities for the visitor and relate him/her to their environment and natural resources. Guided hikes, lectures and slide shows are available. Contact the Park Interpreter.

Picknicking: There are 2 areas with tables, grills and toilets. One area called "Prairie Grove" has water and shelters.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City and White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge manager.

For more details about this site, contact the Site Superintendent, 5010 North Jugtown Road, Morris, Illinois 60450, Phone — Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area — 815/942-2899 or Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area — 815/942-6352. For information on other land and historic sites, write the Illinois Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.